

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 IGA-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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R 261505Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2037

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 1634

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) ADDIS 14027; (B) ADDIS 13951 & 13962

THERE FOLLOWS A SERIES OF DISPARATE ITEMS INTENDED TO GIVE
DEPARTMENT SOME FEEL FOR TEMPEST OF SPECULATION AND RUMORS ON
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN ADDIS NOVEMBER 26.

(A) CORRESPONDENTS ARRIVING IN NUMBERS. THEY HAVE PICKED
UP ECHOES OF DEPARTMENT'S NOON BRIEFING (CF STATE 260222) AND
ARE TELLING EACH OTHER THE U.S. HAS ANNOUNCED A CUTOFF OF MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO ACQUAINT THEM
WITH VERBATIM TEXT OF THE Q&A AND HOPE THAT MISREPORTING WILL
BE PREVENTED.

(B) PMAC HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED
SEPARATELY. IT IS LARGELY A RESTATEMENT OF MATERIAL ALREADY
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MADE PUBLIC ON CHARGES AGAINST THE LATE LG AMAN AND THOSE

EXECUTED WITH HIM, EXCEPT THAT STATEMENT ADMITS AMAN DIED IN SHOOTOUT AT HIS HOME.

(C) EMBASSY HAS PLETHORA OF DIVERGENT, UNVERIFIED REPORTS ON NEW LISTS OF PEOPLE SLATED FOR EXECUTION. THERE ALSO REPORTS THAT SOME ADDITIONAL EXECUTIONS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. WE ARE CHECKING THESE BUT HAVE NO RPT NO CONFIRMATION.

(D) THERE MUCH SPECULATION ON CANDIDACIES FOR SUCCESSOR TO PMAC/CABINET CHAIRMANSHIPS. NAMES MOST PROMINENT AMONG THOSE CITED INCLUDE CURRENT MININTERIOR COL. BELACHEW; LT. GEN. NEGA HAILE SELASSIE, ETHIOPIA'S AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO; BRIG. GEN. WOLDE YOHANNES SHITA, ETHIOPIA'S AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA; LT. GEN. JAGAMA KELLO, C.O. TERRITORIALS; AND BRIG. GEN. TEFARRI BENTI, C.O. OF SECOND DIVISION. WE TAKE LAST-NAMED TO BE LIKELIEST CANDIDATE OF LOT. AMBASSADOR ARE NOT CLOSE TO CURRENT "DIRG" MEMBERSHIP AND BELACHEW IS CREATURE OF POLICE SUBCOMMITTEE. REPORT THAT TEFARRI BENTI MAY BE MADE CHAIRMAN COMES TO US THROUGH RELIABLE CHANNEL FROM GOOD SOURCE. TEFARRI BENTI, MOREOVER, MAY BE COUNTED UPON TO BE OBEDIENT. HE IS KNOWN QUANTITY EXPECTED TO MAKE NO WAVES. ALLEGED DECISION MAY OR MAY NOT HOLD, HOWEVER.

(E) SAME SOURCE WHICH PROVIDED INFORMATION ON ALLEGED SELECTION TEFARRI BENTI AS NEW PMAC CHAIRMAN STATES THAT IT ALSO DECIDED REDUCE MEMBERSHIP OF "DIRG" TO APPROXIMATELY 40 INDIVIDUALS. THERE NO CONFIRMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES THUS FAR AND SAME OLD PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE PLAGUED EFFORTS STREAMLINE "DIRG" SINCE THEY BEGAN WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED. PERHAPS PROVEN WILLINGNESS STAND DISSENTING "DIRG" MEMBERS UP AGAINST EXECUTION WALL WILL HELP SOLVE THESE DIFFICULTIES.

(F) WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT FONMIN ZEWDE GEBRE SELASSIE IS IN GENEVA, THAT HE HAS NOTIFIED "DIRG" OF HIS REFUSAL TO RETURN, AND THAT ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTER WILL HAVE TO BE APPOINTED. WE ARE CROSS-CHECKING (MOFA'S AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR PROFESSES IGNORANCE).

(G) FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION THUS FAR AVAILABLE TO US SUGGESTS THAT ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST DIVISION (BODYGUARD) ARE DEPLOYING NORTHWARD, PRESUMABLY TO ERITREA (CF USDAO 0750NOV74).

WYMAN

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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